

CLERK: 11 ayes, 21 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The amendment fails. Do you have anything else, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hefner would move to indefinitely postpone the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I move to indefinitely postpone the bill and I want to tell you why. I oppose the abolishment of the death penalty. I think that we need it. It is true that we did get one amendment or there was one amendment adopted, but I feel that that certainly didn't help the bill any and, in other words, I think it made it worse. But the majority of Nebraskans support keeping the death penalty. Like I told you before, recent polls show that over 72 percent felt that we should keep the death penalty. Abolishing the death penalty in our state would deny ourselves a major weapon in the battle against violent crimes. South Dakota repealed the death penalty years ago. They reinstated it because they felt that they needed it as a tool. They felt that they needed it as a deterrent against murderers. We need to keep it. We need to keep the death penalty because it would deter crime. I've never seen a dead person commit another murder, so right there it shows that it will deter. We need to strike back at those vicious criminals. I feel that enough innocent lives have been lost in Nebraska and you're going to hear, you're going to hear this afternoon, and you've heard it already, supporters say that the death penalty is inhumane. But I ask you, isn't premeditated murder inhumane? I could describe you many cases to you where it has been inhumane. Let's consider and discuss the two stabbing deaths of two of the Sarpy County boys in 1983, just two and a half to three years ago. Consider how the murderer tortured them before he killed them and how they pleaded with him to let them go, but he killed them anyway. They didn't have a chance. They didn't have a second chance. They didn't get a chance to appeal it and appeal it and appeal it. He tied and gagged them and stabbed them and I don't need to go on because most of you have heard the story. You've read the newspapers, but that was really inhumane. I'd like to tell you another story. This was a story that happened down in the State of Mississippi and this man was executed for doing